Press release

Weatherman to get close to his work

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Met. Office scientist Malcolm MacVean will be getting close to his work over the next ten months by taking part in the BT Global Challenge. As a boundary layer scientist, Malcolm investigates the way the atmosphere interacts with the earth's surface. The varied weather conditions encountered on the world's oceans during this adventure will offer plenty of first-hand experience of his science.

Malcolm will be sailing on the Veritas skippered by Will Carnegie. His meteorological knowledge has already proved invaluable in planning race tactics for each leg, and his expertise will also be put to good use during the race itself by interpreting the weather charts and forecasts available to the crew.

The organisers of the Challenge have also tapped into The Met. Office's global forecasting capability. The Met. Office is one of just two World Area Forecast Centres and information from the powerful forecasting computers in Bracknell will be fed directly to the event web site.

Speaking just before he left, Malcolm said: "We will encounter all kinds of weather on this trip. I'm looking forward to the warm weather sailing and applying my meteorological knowledge to help us win, but I'm less sure about becoming cold, wet and tired in the hostile environment of the Southern Ocean!"

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